

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 18, and 22 are amended, and new claims 23-24 are presented.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims and new claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11-24 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite an access restriction method including "controlling one or more of said plurality of different types of devices based on said operating terminal access right and signal instructions relating to one or more of said plurality of different types of devices."

Claim 11 is amended herein to recite a device control server including "terminal information acceptance means for accepting registration of a single operating terminal for the purpose of associating a unique identifier set for said single operating terminal with an operating terminal access right for accessing said one or more devices of said plurality of different types of devices connected on the wired and/or the wireless home network."

Claim 18 is amended herein to recite a single operating terminal including "input acceptance means for accepting input of instructions relating to operation of said one or more of said plurality of different types of devices that are connected on the network."

Claim 22 is amended herein to recite an access restriction method including "controlling one or more of said plurality of different types devices by said single operating terminal based on said operating terminal access right, said one or more devices being connected on said wired and/or wireless home network, said single operating terminal directly controlling said one or more devices with signals transmitted from said terminal."

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response since it is believed that the amendment of claims 1, 11, 18, and 22 puts this application into condition for allowance and submission of new claims 23-24 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised.

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 9, 11 AND 22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HOLMES (U.S.P. 5,875,395)

ITEMS 6-12: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2-8 AND 12-21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HOLMES IN VIEW OF COMBINATIONS OF BUFFAM (U.S.P. 6,185,36), SIZER, II ET AL. (U.S.P. 6,021,324), MUHONEN (U.S.P. 6,751,472), DUGAN (U.S.P. 6,779,030), AND YATSUKAWA (U.S.P. 6,148,404)

In item 4 of the Action, the Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 9, 11, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holmes, and in items 6-12 of the Office Action rejects claims 2-8 and 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmes in view of combinations of Buffam, Sizer, II, Muhonen, Dugan, and Yatsukawa. The rejections are traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites an access restriction method for a device control system comprising "a device control server interconnected over a wired and/or wireless home network with a plurality of different types of devices within a home and a single operating terminal capable of wired and/or wireless transmission of instruction signals relating to operation of said plurality of devices that are connected on the network, said method comprising: accepting registration of terminal information for associating a unique identifier established for said single operating terminal with said operating terminal access right for accessing said plurality of devices connected on the wired and/or the wireless home network; . . . and controlling one or more of said plurality of different types of devices based on said operating terminal access right and signal instructions relating to one or more of said plurality of different types of devices." (Emphasis added).

Independent claim 11, as amended herein, recites a device control server including "information acceptance means for accepting registration of a single operating terminal for the purpose of associating a unique identifier set for said single operating terminal with an operating terminal access right for accessing said one or more devices of said plurality of different types of devices connected on the wired and/or the wireless home network; . . . ; and device control means controlling said one or more devices based on the access right of said operating terminal as determined by said access right determination means and on instruction signals relating to operation of said one or more devices included in said instruction information." (Emphasis added).

Independent claim 18, as amended herein, recites a single operating terminal including "input acceptance means for accepting input of instructions relating to operation of said one or more of said plurality of different types of devices that are connected on the network." (Emphasis added).

Independent claim 22, as amended herein, recites an access restriction method including

"controlling one or more of said plurality of different types devices by said single operating terminal based on said operating terminal access right, said one or more devices being connected on said wired and/or wireless home network, said single operating terminal directly controlling said one or more devices with signals transmitted from said terminal." (Emphasis added).

Applicants point out that each of the independent claims recites a "home network with . . . devices within a home." That is, according to aspects of the present invention, it is the devices themselves that are connected on the home network.

Applicants submit that the cited art, alone or in combination, does not teach devices themselves that are connected on the home network.

In item 2 of the Action, entitled Response to Arguments, the Examiner contends Holmes teaches:

a home network including the personal base station connected to "a vast array of devices including a home security system, lights, various household appliances and subsystems within the house such as the heating and cooling system" (col. 3, lines 24-29).

(Action at pages 2-3)

Applicants submit that the Examiner's contention that Holmes teaches a home network with a "vast array of devices" is incorrect. Rather, Holmes merely teaches (col. 3 starting at line 8):

(o)nce the authenticity of the identity of a mobile station 10 or terminal at a wired network 24 has been established, the security module 16 produces an output indicating whether or not the mobile station 10 or terminal at wired network 24 is authentic

and further that:

application interface 22 translates data . . . between the mobile station 10 or wired network 24 and the application equipment 26, when permitted based on the output of the security module 16.

(Emphasis added).

That is, Holmes does not teach (in col. 3, lines 24-29, for example) that application equipment 26 connected to a personal base section 12 is connected via a home network. Thus, Holmes does not teach a home network with devices within a home, but rather a separate terminal that is on a wired network, which then communicates with the separate "application equipment," the application equipment not on the wired network.

Further, the mobile station taught by Holmes is not on the "wired network."

Summary

Since features recited by claims 1-9 and 11-22 are not taught by the cited art, alone or in

combination and *prima facie* obviousness is not established, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-9 and 11-22 allowed.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 23-24 are presented to recite features, according to an aspect of the present invention, in a different fashion.

Claims 23-24 recite a home network system including "a wired and/or wireless home network connecting a plurality of different types of devices; a server connected to the home network; a single remote control unit capable of controlling each of the plurality of different types of devices connected to the home network."

These and other features of claims 23-24 patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

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By:

Paul W. Bobowiec
Paul W. Bobowiec
Registration No. 47,431

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501